

Literacy Links

Volume VII, Issue 3

January 2007

Coming Events:

- SAT/ACT Workshop
Kiawah Island
January 25, 2007
- SCCTE Conference
Kiawah Island
January 26-27, 2007
- Best Practice Seminar
Bruce Morgan
February 14, 2007
- SCIRA Conference
Myrtle Beach
February 15-17, 2007
- Best Practice Seminar
Janet Angelillo
March 1, 2007

For information about these programs, please refer to the articles in this issue of *Literacy Links*. This issue and past issues of *Literacy Links* can be found on the State Department's web page at <http://www.ed.sc.gov>.

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Jim Rex Takes the Helm at SDE



On his first day as Superintendent at the South Carolina Department of Education, Dr. Jim Rex reads the card on flowers sent to him by outgoing Superintendent Inez Tennenbaum.

Dr. Rex started his first day on the job meeting with all of the employees in the Rutledge Building and on Forest Drive.

With thirty-five years in education, Dr. Rex is the sixteenth Superintendent of Education. During his time in office, Dr. Rex has five key goals:

- accelerating innovation,
- increasing choices within public schools,
- refining the state's accountability system,
- elevating and reinvigorating the teaching profession, and
- providing fair and more equitable school funding.

Slated for Final Approval in February *English Language Arts Academic Standards 2007*

The English Language Arts Academic Standards 2007 will go to the State Board of Education (SBE) at the February SBE meeting. At this time, the document should receive final approval.

time in the spring of 2007.

Teachers will use the 2007 ELA standards beginning with the 2007-2008 school year.

Once the standards are approved, work will begin on the support documents. The Office of Curriculum and Standards will roll out the final standards document and the support document at the same

Should you have questions regarding the English language arts standards or the support documents, contact Cathy Jones at cjones@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-0790.

Best Practice Seminars Continue in 2007

A series of seminars highlighting best practices will again be offered during the 2006-2007 school year to South Carolina K-12 educators by the Office of Curriculum and Standards and the South Carolina International Reading Association (SCIRA).

The next session features Bruce Morgan, who will present writing information for elementary and middle school teachers.

There is space available for all of the remaining sessions, but you will need to register as soon as possible to ensure your participation. Registration information is at the end of this newsletter.

If you have questions regarding your registration, contact Judy Redman at jredman@comporium.net. If you have questions about the topics or

presenters, please contact Caroline Savage at csavage@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-4770.

In the event of inclement weather in the Columbia area, please call 803-734-4770 after 6:00 p.m. the day prior to the session for cancellation information.

Date	Presenter	Audience	Topic
February 14, 2007	Bruce Morgan	Elementary/ Middle	Writing Through the 'Tween Years
March 1, 2007	Janet Angelillo	Elementary/Middle	A Fresh Approach to Teaching Punctuation: Helping Writers Use Conventions with Precision and Purpose
March 20, 2007	Sharon Kazee	All Levels	Interdisciplinary Connections and the Arts
April 26, 2007	Wendy Hoffer	Middle/High School	Inquiry for Everyone!

Updates and Resources for Teachers

Office of Assessment

The PACT Facts state tour has concluded. Unfortunately, the presenters were not able to meet with as many teachers as they would have liked. Since the sessions were held during the school day, many teachers were not able to attend.

In case you want to see or use the entire presentation (elementary and middle), visit <http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/assessment/resosources/powerpointpresentations2.html>.

Newly-released PACT items can be found at <http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/assessment/pact/PACTReleaseItems.html>.

If you have any ELA-related assessment questions, please contact Judy Shillinglaw at jshillin@ed.sc.gov or Jenny Howard at jyhoward@ed.sc.gov.

Last Chance for Free Books for Read Across America Day

The Literacy Empowerment Foundation, a 501 (c)3 non-profit

organization, invites your school or other literacy project to apply for FREE books for Read Across America Day. During this past year, LEF has distributed over 3,000,000 books to schools all across the country for Read Across America Day and other literacy projects.

Resources are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Orders must be received by February 11, 2007. Access the order form at <http://LEFbooks.org>.

WIN Announces 2007 Fall Writing Conference

The 2007 Fall Writing Conference will be November 8-9, 2007 in Greenville at the Palmetto Expo Center. The pre-conference workshop will be November 7. The conference theme is "Finding Your Voice." Speakers will be announced at a later date.

The Call for Proposals will be available in mid-February on the WIN website, <http://www.winsc.org>. Copies will be sent by surface mail and email to each district's ELA coordinator, as well as to school-level administrators. The deadline for submitting a proposal is April 16, 2007.

When I was very young, most of my childhood heroes wore capes, flew through the air, or picked up buildings with one arm. They were spectacular and got a lot of attention. But as I grew, my heroes changed, so that now I can honestly say that anyone who does anything to help a child is a hero to me.

The World According to Mister Rogers

Keep It Simple: The PSAT, the SAT, and the ACT Workshops Offered Free of Charge

In collaboration with the South Carolina Council of Teachers of English (SCCTE) and the South Carolina Chapter of the International Reading Association, the State Department of Education (SDE) is sponsoring a workshop, *Keep It Simple: The PSAT, the SAT, and the ACT*, for high school teachers, literacy coaches, or administrators as a pre-conference session at the annual SCCTE and SCIRA conferences in 2007.

This five-hour session explores strategies for teaching students how to take the reading and writing sections of standardized tests like the PSAT, the SAT, and the ACT. The interactive session provides material and activities for teachers of test-preparation courses and for teachers who incorporate test-taking strategies into their classroom instruction. The session will be presented by Bill Pell, who recently retired from Spartanburg High School, where he taught English for thirty-five years, and is now teaching at Spartanburg Day School.

The SCCTE workshop will be held on Thursday, January 25, 2007, from 10:00 A.M.-3:00 p.m. at the Kiawah Island Resort, the site of this year's SCCTE conference, and the SCIRA workshop will be held on Thursday, February 15, 2007, at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center. Listed below is the agenda for the day:

9:30 a.m.-10:00 a.m.	Registration
10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon	Session 1
12:00 noon-1:00 p.m.	Lunch (Provided)
1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.	Session 2
3:00 p.m.	Adjournment

There is no charge for the workshop. Please note that this is different from the information that appears on SCCTE's website and conference registration form. If you have already registered and sent SCCTE a check for \$50, you will receive a refund the day of the workshop. Each participant will receive a copy of *The Official SAT Study Guide: For the New SAT*, as well as other ACT/SAT prep materials.

To register for one of these workshops, complete the registration form, which can be downloaded from the SDE webpage at <http://www.ed.sc.gov/agency/offices/hsr/>. After you complete the form, please return it via mail to Sheila Boykin at the State Department of Education, 1429 Senate Street, Room 1112, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, or fax at 803-734-3592, or email at sboykin@ed.sc.gov. The registration deadline for the SCCTE workshop is January 19, 2007, and the deadline for the SCIRA workshop is February 1, 2007.

If you prefer, you can register for the workshop when you register for the conference online at www.sccte.org or www.scira.org. Please note that you do not have to register for the entire conference in order to attend this workshop. We, of course, encourage you to do so.

If you have questions about this information, please contact Suzette Lee, Director of the Office of High School Redesign and ACT/SAT Improvement, at 803-734-6103 or slee@ed.sc.gov or Sheila Boykin at 803-734-0476. We look forward to seeing you at the workshop.

Opportunities for Students to Showcase Their Talents

River of Words

The South Carolina Center for the Book is proud to partner with the Library of Congress and the River of Words foundation to bring the River of Words contest to students in South Carolina. River of Words is a free, international poetry and art contest for youth on the theme of watersheds. The contest is designed to help youth explore the natural and cultural history of the place they live and to express, through poetry and art, what they discover.

The contest is open to any student in South Carolina from five to nineteen years of age. Students may enter on their own or as part of a group (classroom, scout troop, etc.).

The deadline for entries is February 15, 2007. For more information about the contest and entry form,

visit <http://www.riverofwords.org>. For questions or additional information, contact Theresa Wallace at tjwallace@schumanities.org or 803-771-2477.

Poetry Out Loud

Created by the National Endowment of the Arts and the Poetry Foundation, Poetry Out Loud is a program that encourages high school students to memorize and perform great poems. Poetry Out Loud invites the dynamic aspects of a variety of poetic styles and forms and theater into the English classroom.

For more information about this program, contact Charlene Spearen at cmspeare@gwm.sc.edu or 803-777-5492.



Making Media Literacy a Part of the ELA Classroom

By Frank Baker
Media Educator

Super Bowl: Great Opportunity to Teach Media Literacy

March our calendar for Sunday, February 4, the date of the 2007 Super Bowl game on CBS. Once again, advertisers will pay more than 2.5 million dollars just to air one 30-second commercial.

In the weeks preceding the game, you will read about who is advertising. This is another great opportunity to record and bring these spots into the classroom and engage your students in discussions about production techniques, as well as techniques of persuasion.

For more information, go to http://www.frankwbaker.com/super_bowl.htm.

Media Literacy Best Practice Seminar Materials Available

In December, Frank Baker conducted two Best Practice seminars for elementary and secondary educators. As a result of these professional development sessions on integrating media literacy, Frank has posted both the handouts and PowerPoint presentations on his website: http://www.frankwbaker.com/2006_ml_best_practice.htm.

Richland Northeast High School to present IndieReels Film Festival

The Southeast's first competition and festival just for high school filmmakers will take in Columbia on April 21, 2007. Presented by Richland Northeast High School, IndieReels will feature student words in six categories: documentary, comedy, drama, animation/new media, podcast, and public service announcement.

Applications must be postmarked by February 17, 2007. Only the first 120 entries can be accepted. Finalists in each category will be screened at the IndieReels Festival, at which time the winners (one in each category) will be announced.

The winning film in each category in the

IndieReels Festival will be shown during Columbia's Stanley Donen Film Festival, May 31–June 2 in Columbia.

More information is available online on the IndieReels webpage: <http://www.richland2.org/rnh>. For more information on the film festival, contact Susan Levi Wallach at swallach@rnh.richland2.org or 803-699-2800 extension 2782.

Register NOW for ETV's FREE Teacher Tech Days: March 13-16

In case you missed ETV's Teacher Tech Days last spring, ETV is bringing them back. These teacher tech days occur over several days. Possible topics include streamline, movie maker, PowerPoint, digital storytelling, podcasting, blogging, media literacy, and more.

Registration is online at <http://etv.streamlinesc.org>. One hour recertification credit is available. If you have questions, call 800-277-3245 or contact Donna Thompson at dthompson@scetv.org.

NCTE's New Curriculum Kit Examines Nonfiction Texts

Students today are asked to read and interpret an increasingly diverse variety of nonfiction texts. From science textbooks and standardized tests to the daily newspaper, students are constantly required to determine what is "real" and are asked to make judgments about validity, objectivity, and bias. Because nonfiction texts are read differently than fiction, students need different skills for decoding and interpreting nonfiction works.

Details can be found at <http://www.ncte.org/store/kits/12762.htm>.

Lights, Camera, Education! Explains Film Making Process

This presentation is now available via United Streaming at <http://www.myetv.org/education/streamlinesc>. Hosted by actor/director Sean Astin, *Lights, Camera, Education!* Profiles actual teachers and students as they incorporate the techniques and collaborative process

of filmmaking into the study of traditional academic subjects. *Lights, Camera Education!* Is an online application of AFI's K-12 Screen Education's professional development workshop series.

Since its launch in 2001, this program has provided hundreds of teachers with the tools and skills to incorporate filmmaking into their curriculum. Teachers who use the AFT Screen Education process in their classrooms have students write, shoot, edit, and show the original films they produce as part of their studies. The process transforms the classroom for teachers and students and has been successfully used for K-12 subjects including English, social studies, history, math, science, special needs, gifted and talented, advanced placement, and English as a second language.

Report: Students Struggle With Information Literacy

Many students know how to use technology, but fewer know how to apply it to find what they are looking for. We often think of today's students as technology-savvy. While that may be true, to a certain extent, when it comes to using hardware and software devices, a recently published report shows how little know-how students display when it comes to information literacy, or the ability to use technology to find the information they are looking for. The report, from Princeton, NJ-based ETS, found that the majority of high school and college students lack the proper critical thinking skills when it comes to researching online and using sources.

For more information, go to <http://www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStoryts.cfm?ArticleD=6724>.

OFFICE OF
CURRICULUM AND
STANDARDS
SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF
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The Office of Curriculum and Standards provides statewide leadership and services to schools and districts to ensure the implementation of grade-level standards-based instruction for all students.

We accomplish this by:

- developing and revising academic standards and expanding support materials;
- promoting the use of effective evidence-based instructional practices by schools and districts; and
- facilitating the implementation of programs, projects, grants, and activities that support standards-based instruction

Literacy Links is published by the
Office of Curriculum and Standards.

The newsletter will be posted to the Office of Curriculum and Standards and the English language arts Web pages the first week of every other month.

If you have questions about *Literacy Links* or have a comment or concern, please contact Allison Norwood at anorwood@ed.sc.gov or 803-734-2469.



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and Standards

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Best Practice Seminar Series 2006-2007 Registration Form

A series of seminars highlighting best practices will be offered during the 2006-2007 school year to South Carolina K-12 educators by the Office of Curriculum and Standards at the State Department of Education (SDE) and the South Carolina Council of the International Reading Association (SCIRA). A schedule of the sessions, dates, audiences, general topics, and locations is included with this registration form. Each session will be held in Columbia from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided. **Please use this form to register for any sessions you are interested in attending.**

Instructions: To register for any of these seminars, please complete this form and mail it and a **check made payable to SCIRA for \$50.00 for each session for which you are registering** to Judy Redman at Post Office Box 10101, Rock Hill, South Carolina 29731. Payment is due with registration. No purchase orders will be accepted. Participation will be on a first-come with check, first-served basis. A confirmation e-mail will be sent to registrants. Unless you receive a confirmation, do not consider yourself registered. Directions to the session locations will be posted to the State Department of Education website. **If you have any questions concerning your registration, please contact Judy Redman at jredman@comporium.net or fax at 803-329-1952. If you have any questions concerning the seminar, contact Caroline Savage at 803-734-4470 or csavage@ed.sc.gov.**

Please indicate with an "X", beside the SESSION column, the session you wish to attend.

Session	X	Session Date	Presenter	Deadline	Location
Session 1		September 20, 2006	Quality Quinn	September 8, 2006	The Cotton House
Session 2		October 24, 2006	Carol Jago	October 9, 2006	Seawell's
Session 3		November 17, 2006	Tim Rasinski	November 1, 2006	Columbia Conference Center
Session 4		November 29, 2006	Joyce VanTassel - Baska	November 10, 2006	Brookland Baptist Conference Center
Session 5		December 6, 2006	Frank Baker	November 20, 2006	Brookland Baptist Conference Center
Session 6		December 7, 2006	Frank Baker	November 20, 2006	Brookland Baptist Conference Center
Session 7		January 11, 2007	Carl Anderson	December 18, 2006	Columbia Conference Center
Session 8		February 14, 2007	Bruce Morgan	January 29, 2007	Columbia Conference Center
Session 9		March 1, 2007	Janet Angelillo	February 19, 2007	Columbia Conference Center
Session 10		March 20, 2007	Sharon Kazee	March 5, 2007	Brookland Baptist Conference Center
Session 11		April 26, 2007	Wendy Hoffer	April 9, 2007	SC Archives and History Center

Please provide the following information.

Name _____

Position/Content Area _____ Grade _____

District _____ School _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Fax (_____) _____

School E-mail _____

Home Street Address _____

2006-2007 Best Practice Seminar Series

Presenter	Topic	Audience
Quality Quinn	Formative Assessment and Differentiation: The Missing Link After third grade, the achievement gap with minorities, second language learners, and low-income students widens substantially. This session will examine literacy's role in bridging this gap through formative assessment and differentiation. How can administrators and teachers in all content areas work together to prepare for early success and keep students from falling further behind each year?	All Levels Administrator Strand
Carol Jago	Cohesive Writing: Handling the Paper Load through Improved Student Writing This session offers practical help with teaching students to write effective essays both on demand and through revision. Participants will learn how to help students focus, organize, and develop their ideas for writing. Particular emphasis will be given to revision strategies. The workshop will also offer practical techniques for handling the paper load.	Middle/ High School
Tim Rasinski	Working with Struggling Readers: Effective and Engaging Strategies that Work Based on his work with struggling readers, Dr. Rasinski will share strategies that have been proven to help students who find learning to read difficult. Strategies in the areas of phonics, vocabulary, reading fluency, and reading comprehension appropriate for any content area will be shared.	All Levels
Joyce Van Tassel-Baska	Differentiation and Working With the Accelerated Learner in All Classrooms This session will emphasize successful strategies for working with advanced learners in classrooms at all grade levels. It will provide key teaching and learning models that can be applied to meet differentiation requirements for this population, using a variety of curriculum. Strategies for differentiating curriculum will also be featured along with criteria for selecting reading materials.	All Levels Administrator Strand
Frank Baker	Critical Thinking About Media Messages—Media Literacy: A 21st Century Literacy Skill Many of our young people are media savvy, but they are not media literate. Frank Baker helps participants understand "media literacy" and its place in all content area standards. What are the skills you need in order to help your students be critical thinkers and viewers in the 21st century?	Elementary
Frank Baker	Critical Thinking About Media Messages—Media Literacy: A 21st Century Literacy Skill Many of our young people are media savvy, but they are not media literate. Frank Baker helps participants understand "media literacy" and its place in all content area standards. What are the skills you need in order to help your students be critical thinkers and viewers in the 21st century?	Middle/ High School
Carl Anderson	How's It Going? Conferencing With Students Anderson will lead participants through the challenging but essential terrains of learning to confer with students. This session will examine the teacher's role in conferences, strategies for teaching students to take an active role, ways to weave text, mini-lessons, classroom management strategies, and responses to the most frequently asked questions about conferring.	Elementary/ Middle
Bruce Morgan	Writing Through the 'Tween Years Bruce Morgan will share how teachers can get back to the joys of teaching writing in a literature-rich, thoughtful environment. Strategies will be shared on how to develop a writing program that involves integrating insights from reading strategy instruction with a renewed emphasis on the basics of writers' workshop: student choice, teacher modeling, revision, and using quality mentor texts.	Elementary/ Middle
Janet Angelillo	A Fresh Approach to Teaching Punctuation: Helping Writers Use Conventions with Precision and Purpose Through mini-lessons, partner and small-group activities, students catch on to the power of punctuation by looking at how authors use it and by noticing it in advertising, newspapers, and other kinds of text. Janet Angelillo will share ideas for using a variety of text and more for learning about punctuation.	Elementary/ Middle
Sharon Kazee	Interdisciplinary Connections and the Arts This session will focus on making interdisciplinary connections through arts integration. Topics will include defining arts integration, exploring current research, accessing resources, and looking at sample units and lessons that effectively integrate the arts with other academic areas. Strategies will be shared to make these connections through active participation.	All Levels
Wendy Hoffer	Inquiry for Everyone! Evoke students' curiosity. Challenge students' thinking. Organize students' learning. Assess students' growth. This session will touch on each of these essential building blocks to successful inquiry-based learning experiences across content areas.	Middle/ High School